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Blueprint to boost marketability of grads: Khaled

SEPANG: The Government on Tuesday launched the Graduate Employability Blueprint for 2012-2017 that will focus on boosting the level of graduate marketability as well as fulfilling the needs of the professional and skilled manpower towards national development.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said the plan would be a paradigm shift in confronting the issues of graduate marketability in the country and was proof that the Government was addressing the issue seriously.

"We developed the blueprint to ensure that we overcome all matters raised by the industry and to meet industry needs and requirements," he told reporters after launching the plan here.

Earlier, in his speech, Mohamed Khaled said four core issues in the plan included a strategy to create a higher education system which could produce quality human capital; global competitiveness; meeting national needs; as well as creating a higher education system which could provide

graduates their dream careers.

Mohamed Khaled said a committee has been set up to monitor the plan's implementation as well as the issues encountered.

He said an evaluation would be carried out six years after the implementation of the plan.

Mohamed Khaled also said that to ensure the smooth implementation of the blueprint, several programmes on graduate marketability and employability would be carried out, including the Industry Centre of Excellence (ICoE) in collaboration with universities and industries.

"To date, the six ICoEs set up in the automotive, electrical, electronic, wholesaling and retailing fields are ICoE-Infineon with Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP), ICoE-Infineon with Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM), ICoE-Sapura with Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), ICoE-Miyazu with UMP, ICoE-Mydin with Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) and Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), and ICoE-MRCA with UUM and Segi University College," he said.